involved a separate licence fee viz. US $ 0.8 million for Phase I, US $ 2.0 million for Phase II and US $ 5.1 million for Phase III. HAL has paid the Phase I licence fee to Gerneral Electric, USA. The licence agreement has been extended for a further ten year period, i.e. upto 6.11.2006.

Filling up of Group 'C' and 'D' Posts in Ordnance Depots

*293. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the according to the latest Government policy, all Group 'C' and 'D' vacancies reserved for SC and ST catregories under the special drive should have been filled up before 31st March, 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some vacancies reserved for SC and ST under the Special Drive for Group 'D' posts in Ordnance Depots, Delhi are still banned and the clearance of Ministry of Finance is still awaited thereof;

(c) what are the circumstances under which the Ministry of Finance did not clear the said vacancies; and

(d) what are the details of the action being contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Finance had sought certain information, which has since been furnished to them.

Pending Cases for Freedom Fighters' Pension from Maharashtra

*294. DR. SHRIKANTI RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2952 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1992 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the 9 cases of freedom fighters' pension from Maharashtra pending since 9th June, 1992; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if no decision has been taken, what are the reasons for delay; and

(c) what is the number of fresh more cases after 9th June, 1992 which have been received from Maharashtra and what is their fate?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Out of 9 cases, pension has already been sanctioned in four cases. Two cases have been rejected and clarification have been sought from the State Government of Maharashtra in the remaining three cases.

(c) Three fresh cases have been received from the State Government during the period from August to October, 1992. These are being examined in accordance with the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

Facilities for Freedom Fighters

*295. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the facilities provided at present to the freedom fighters;

(b) whether Government propose to give some more facilities to freedom figthers such as free medical aid and free state transport; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with State

Governments to provide them free travel in buses and also include their names in the list of permanent invitees for State functions; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The facilities provided at present to the freedom fighters who are in receipt of pension from the Central Govt. include the following:—

(i) Freedom fighters have been provided facility of 1st class railway pass for themselves and for spouse/attendant for life. This facility has been extended to the widows of the freedom fighters also.

(ii) Free medical facilities are available to the freedom fighters in all Central Govt. hospitals and the hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of Bureau of Public Enterprises. Facilities of CGHS have also been extended to the freedom fighters and their dependants.

(iii) Residential accommodation is provided to freedom fighters of all India standing who are in need of medical treatment in Delhi and who do not own any house/flat in their names or in the names of their family members/ dependants anywhere in India.

(iv) A Freedom Fighters' Home has been set up in New Delhi to accommodate those freedom fighters who have none to look after them and are without any shelter or accommodation.

(v) It has been decided, from 15th August, 1952, to provide one telephone connection to each freedom fighter, subject to technical feasibility, at a place where he is normally available under the 'Non-OYT Swatantra Senani' category. No instalment fee would be charged under the 'Swatantra Senani' category and the subscriber will be charged only half the normal rental charges. Registration fee as applicable to non-OYT category would however, be charged under this category. The freedom fighters who have already availed of the telephone facility under Non-OYT/Special cetegory would be eligible only for the rental concession.

(b) and (c) As already indicated in reply to part (a) of the Question, free medical facilities in the Central Govt. hospitals, hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings and the CGHS Dispensaries are already available to the freedom fighters. On the suggestions of the Central Government, some State Governments have already provided some additional facilities to the freedom fighters including free travel in the State Transport buses. The State Governments have also been requested, time and again to give a prominent place to the freedom fighters in the Committees which are constituted at the Block, District and State levels. The State Governments are also expected to include the names of the freedom fighters in the list of permanent invitees for State functions.

Repair of Mirage-2000 engines at HAL

*296. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an arrangement has been made for repair and overhaul of Mirage-2000 engines at HAL with foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, the details of the terms of the arrangements; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to make optimum use of the capacity installed at various units of HAL?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government have approved the setting up of facilities for overhaul of Mirage-2000 aircraft in the country. The overhaul of the aircraft and associated equipment will be undertaken at the HAL divisions and Air Force units in collaboration with manufacturers of the aircraft.